

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OIC-02 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12
NEA-10 OES-07 HEW-04 HUD-01 L-03 FRB-03 OMB-01
ITC-01 SP-02 USIA-06 AGRE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00
COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 STR-07
TRSE-00 CEA-01 SS-15 /148 W
-----065796 282026Z /46

R 281856Z FEB 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9777
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 00692

VIENNA FOR USUNIDO

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EGEN, UN, ECOSOC, UNIDO
SUBJECT: UN CONFERENCE ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF UNIDO AS A
SPECIALIZED AGENCY - DEVELOPMENTS DURING WEEK OF FEBRU-
ARY 20-24

1. SUMMARY: CONFERENCE GOT OFF TO A SLOW START. FIRST
WEEK WAS DEVOTED ALMOST ENTIRELY TO RESOLUTION OF VARIOUS
PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS, INCLUDING PARTICIPATION OF UN COUN-
CIL FOR NAMIBIA. THIS WORK WAS NOT COMPLETED UNTIL FRIDAY
AFTERNOON, FEBRUARY 24. NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE, WHICH CON-
VENED IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER, QUICKLY BOGGED DOWN WHEN
GROUP D DISPUTED WORK PROGRAM PROPOSED BY CHAIRMAN AND
SUPPORTED WITH MINOR MODIFICATION BY ALL OTHERS; DEBATE ON
WORK PROGRAM WILL CONTINUE FEBRUARY 27. DESPITE DELAYS,
CONFERENCE ATMOSPHERE IS GENERALLY POSITIVE WITH G-77 AP-
ARENTLY PREPARED TO ACCEPT AGREEMENTS REACHED IN INTERGOV-
ERNMENTAL COMMITTEE (IGC) AND TAKE BUSINESSLIKE APPROACH TO
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NEGOTIATION OF REMAINING ISSUES. ATTITUDE OF GROUP D RE-
MAINS TO BE TESTED. END SUMMARY.

2. MOST OF PARTICIPANTS' TIME DURING FIRST WEEK WAS SPENT
IN INTRA-GROUP CONSULTATIONS, REQUIRED MAINLY TO PERMIT
G-77 TO GET ITS THOUGHTS IN ORDER, AND IN INFORMAL INTER-
GROUP CONSULTATIONS TO REACH UNDERSTANDINGS ON PROCEDURAL

QUESTIONS. BRIEF PLENARY SESSIONS CONFIRMED FOLLOWING DECISIONS:

(A) AMRIK MEHTA, INDIAN AMBASSADOR IN VIENNA WHO CHAIRED IGC, WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT OF CONFERENCE;

(B) GENERAL COMMITTEE OR "BUREAU" WILL CONSIST OF 22 MEMBERS -- 12 FROM G-77, 6 FROM GROUP B, 3 FROM GROUP D, PLUS CHINA. IN ADDITION TO MEHTA, THESE MEMBERS WILL BE 17 VICE PRESIDENTS, RAPPORTEUR GENERAL (FLORES, MEXICO), AND CHAIRMEN OF NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE (WOLTE, AUSTRIA), OF DRAFTING COMMITTEE (THOMAS, GDR), AND OF CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE (JIMETA, NIGERIA);

(C) NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE WILL BE OPEN-ENDED, ALTHOUGH G-77 HAS URGED THAT NUMBER OF ACTIVE NEGOTIATORS BE LIMITED IN PRACTICE AND HAS INDICATED THAT THEY INTEND ORDINARILY TO USE SINGLE SPOKESMAN. CONTRARY TO EXPECTATIONS, G-77 DID NOT PUT FORWARD A CANDIDATE FOR CHAIRMANSHIP OF NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE BUT ACCEPTED AS REASONABLE THAT GROUP B SHOULD FILL THAT POSITION ;

(D) DRAFTING COMMITTEE WILL HAVE 19 MEMBERS INCLUDING CHAIRMAN THOMAS -- 10 FROM G-77, 5 FROM GROUP B (INCLUDING U. S.), 3 FROM GROUP D, CHINA. THERE IS UNDERSTANDING THAT COMMITTEE WILL LIMIT ITSELF TO TECHNICAL AND LEGAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REVIEW OF TEXTS AND THAT ANY UNRESOLVED SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES RAISED IN COMMITTEE WILL BE REFERRED TO NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE;

(E) AGENDA WAS ADOPTED AS IT APPEARS IN DOCUMENT A/CONF.90/1/REV.1 EXCEPT THAT LAST PART OF ITEM 6, "SIGNATURE OF THE FINAL ACT AND OF THE UNIDO CONSTITUTION" WAS AMENDED TO READ "...AND OPENING OF THE UNIDO CONSTITUTION FOR SIGNATURE." THIS CHANGE WAS PROPOSED BY GROUP D, ALTHOUGH IT WAS ALSO IN LINE WITH GROUP B THINKING.

(F) RULES OF PROCEDURE (DOCUMENT A/CONF.90/2) WERE ADOPTED WITH MINOR MODIFICATIONS. BY PRIOR AGREEMENT WITH GROUPS, MEHTA ANNOUNCED FROM CHAIR THAT (1) WITH RESPECT TO BASIC DOCUMENTS FOR CONFERENCE (RULE 28), CONFERENCE SHOULD REFRAIN TO EXTENT POSSIBLE FROM REOPENING ANY SUBSTANTIVE QUESTIONS THAT HAVE ALREADY BEEN SETTLED AND (2) WITH RESPECT TO VOTING PROCEDURES (RULE 34), CONFERENCE WILL MAKE ALL EFFORTS TO REACH DECISIONS ON ALL SUBSTANTIVE QUESTIONS BY CONSENSUS.

3. PRIOR TO ADOPTION OF RULES OF PROCEDURE, G-77 SPOKES-

MAN RAISED INFORMALLY POSSIBILITY OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO
RULE 55 TO GIVE UN COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA RIGHT OF "FULL"
PARTICIPATION INCLUDING RIGHT TO VOTE. IT BECAME OBVIOUS
THAT THIS WOULD LEAD TO AT A MINIMUM TO RESERVATIONS BY
SEVERAL COUNTRIES AND POSSIBLY REQUEST FOR VOTE ON
AMENDMENT. THROUGH GOOD OFFICES OF MEHTA, INTERESTED PAR-
TIES AGREED TO ACCEPT AMBIGUOUS LANGUAGE ("REPRESENTATIVES
DESIGNATED BY THE UN COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA MAY PARTICIPATE
IN THE DELIBERATIONS OF THE CONFERENCE AND ITS SUBSIDIARY
ORGANS") ACCOMPANIED BY A STATEMENT FROM THE CHAIR THAT
"RULE 55 WAS FRAMED AFTER EXTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS AMONG
INTERESTED PARTIES. IT WAS NOT FULLY SATISFACTORY TO ANY
OF THE SIDES BUT THEY HAVE GONE ALONG WITH IT IN A SPIRIT
OF COMPROMISE." ON THIS BASIS, ALL AGREED TO REFRAIN FROM
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STATEMENTS IN PLENARY RECALLING POSITIONS ON STATUS OF

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OIC-02 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12
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TRSE-00 CEA-01 SS-15 /148 W

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VIENNA FOR USUNIDO

COUNCIL. FRANCE WAS ESPECIALLY RELUCTANT TO AGREE TO RE-
MAIN SILENT.

4. AT FIRST SESSION OF NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE FEBRUARY 24, CHAIRMAN WOLTE CIRCULATED A NOTE PROPOSING A WORK SCHEDULE THAT WOULD FOCUS FIRST ON INSTITUTIONAL, FINANCIAL, AND LEGAL QUESTIONS AND DEFER CONSIDERATION OF "POLITICAL" ISSUES SUCH AS NIO REFERENCES IN PREAMBLE UNTIL LATER. G-77 AGREED TO CHAIRMAN'S PROPOSAL WITH REVERSAL OF FINANCIAL AND INSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS. GROUP B SUPPORTED CHAIRMAN AND G-77, NOTING THAT MANY ISSUES ARE INTERRELATED AND THAT, THEREFORE, SETTLEMENT OF ONE ISSUE MIGHT BE CONDITIONAL ON SETTLEMENT OF OTHERS. GROUP D THEN INTERVENED TO OBJECT STRONGLY TO THIS APPROACH TO WORK PROGRAM AND TO INSIST THAT COMMITTEE BEGIN WITH PREAMBLE AND TAKE UP ISSUE IN ORDER THEY APPEAR IN TEXT OF DRAFT CONSTITUTION. COMMITTEE RECESSED UNTIL FEBRUARY 27 WITHOUT AGREEMENT ON WORK PROGRAM. (COMMENT; GROUP D POSITION ON FINANCIAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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QUESTIONS IS VERY NEGATIVE, WHEREAS ON PREAMBULAR QUESTIONS THEY SUPPORT G-77, AND IT IS GROUP B THAT HAS PROBLEMS. GROUP D OBVIOUSLY WANTS TO HAVE WORK PROGRAM THAT WILL AVOID PUTTING THEM ON DEFENSIVE AT OUTSET. THEIR ATTEMPTS TO ACHIEVE THIS COULD, HOWEVER, BE VIEWED AS OBSTRUCTIONIST. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN HOW HARD THEY WILL PRESS THE MATTER AND HOW STRONGLY OTHERS WILL RESIST. END COMMENT.)

5. G-77 HAS NAMED AMBASSADOR DONALD MILLS, JAMAICA'S PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO UN, AS ITS SPOKESMAN. HOWEVER, DOMINGO SIAZON, PHILIPPINE AMBASSADOR IN VIENNA AND G-77 SPOKESMAN IN VIENNA, AND SOME OF HIS VIENNA COLLEAGUES APPEAR TO BE PLAYING INFLUENTIAL ROLE IN INTERNAL G-77 DISCUSSIONS. INDICATIONS ARE THAT G-77 WILL AVOID REOPENING AGREEMENTS REACHED IN IGC AND WILL TAKE BUSINESSLIKE APPROACH TO NEGOTIATION OF REMAINING ISSUES. THEIR WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT WOLTE'S PROPOSAL TO POSTPONE CONSIDERATION OF "POLITICAL" ISSUES IS GOOD EVIDENCE OF THIS.

6. GROUP B HAS BEEN MEETING REGULARLY TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION BUT HAS SPENT A GREAT DEAL OF TIME DEBATING WHETHER IT SHOULD EXIST AT ALL IN NEW YORK CONTEXT. SWEDES ARE ADAMANT THAT NO ONE CAN SPEAK FOR THEM ON SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES, AND OTHERS FAVOR VARYING DEGREES OF FLEXIBILITY. PROSPECT IS THAT GROUP WILL PROCEED IN PRAGMATIC FASHION BUT THAT IT WILL HAVE DIFFICULTY SPEAKING WITH ONE VOICE, AS G-77 APPARENTLY PLANS TO DO. YOUNG

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICES, GOVERNMENT AGENCIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978USUNN00692
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780092-0529
Format: TEL
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978021/aaaaaakc.tel
Line Count: 219
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7fafcdcc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3422919
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UN CONFERENCE ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF UNIDO AS A SPECIALIZED AGENCY - DEVELOPMENTS DURING WEEK OF FEBRU-
ARY 20-24
TAGS: EGEN, PORG, UN, ECOSOC, UNIDO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7fafcdcc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014